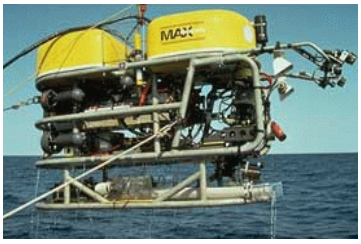
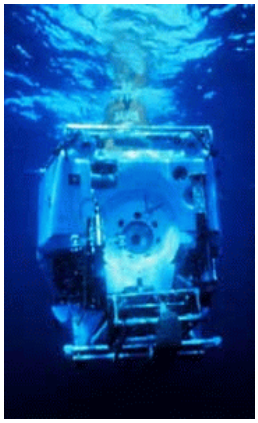
# National Undersea Research Program

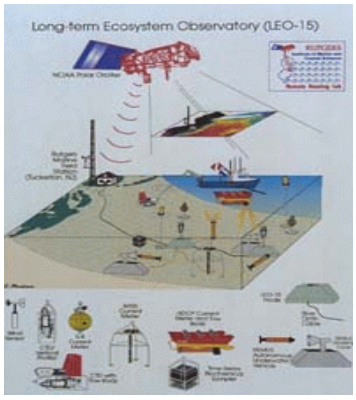
*Leader in underwater science and exploration*



Kraken II Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV)



Alvin deep-diving manned submersible




Long Term Ecological Observatory

Aquarius, the world s only underwater laboratory

1315 East West Hwy
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-713-1671
www.oar.noaa.gov

## WhatWhat does the National Undersea ResearchWhat does the Natior nation?

TheThe National Undersea ReThe National Undersea Research The National U providingproviding undersea scientistsproviding undersea scientists with theproviding un underseaundersea environment. NURP works with scientists to use submersunc remotelyremotely operated or autonomouremotely operated or autonomous uremotely underwaterunderwater laboratories and observatories, and other cuttingunderwater labo NURP sNURP s rNURP s researNURP s research programs cover a range of underse shoreline to the deep sea and include nearly all the scientific disciplines.

NURPNURP is headquartered in NOAA's Office of Oceanic and AtmosphericNURP is he (OAR)(OAR) in Silver Spri(OAR) in Silver Spring, (OAR) in Silver Spring, MD, with providesprovides grants through its regionprovides grants through its regionapr community.community. Highest prioritycommunity. Highest priority is given tocomm lakes,lakes, territorial seas, and adjacent waters. The regional centerslakes, territorial se twotwo hundred or more untwo hundred or more understwo hundred or more underse asas steward of oceanic resources and environments. Preas steward of oceanic r centers include:

- North Atlantic and Great Lakes: University of Connecticut-Avery Point
- Mid-Atlantic Bight: Rutgers University
- Southeast and Gulf of Mexico: University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- Caribbean:Caribbean: Caribbean Marine Research Center; Perry InsCaribbean: Science
- West Coast and Polar Regions: University of Alaska Fairbanks
- HawHawaiiHawaii and the Western Pacific: University of Hawaii at Manoa, Ha Undersea Research Laboratory

## Recent Accomplishments:

- ResearchResearch on the effects Research on the effects of trawResearch on t ***currentlycurrently closed to fishing provide an opportunitcurrently closed to ratesrates in a range ofrates in a range of habirates in a range of habitats provideprovide management provide management with provide manag reopening the closure areas.***

- ResearchResearch onResearch on factors affecting coral health. ***Payoffs: Maintair ofof corals and preventing dof corals and preventing damage of corals a HealthyHealthy coral Healthy coral eHealthy coral ecosystems suppo activitiesactivities that are worth over one billion dollars aactivities that are conductedconducted over 100 research projects addressing a widerangecond relevantrelevant to coralsrelevant to corals including fisheries, reef conditions***

- ResearchResearch on frozenResearch on frozen methane hydrates.Research on fr ***thanthan than 1,000 times more energy than all estimated oil and gas sourc combined.combined. NURP has supportedcombined. NURP has supported n GulfGulf of MexicoGulf of Mexico to studGulf of Mexico to study hydrates, ecosystems associated with them.***
- PioneeringPioneering development of unmanned obPioneering development o research.research. ***Payoffs:Payoffs: NURP provides the ability to studyPayoffs phenomena in real time.***

## What s Next for NURP?

Science Challenges in the next five to 10 years:

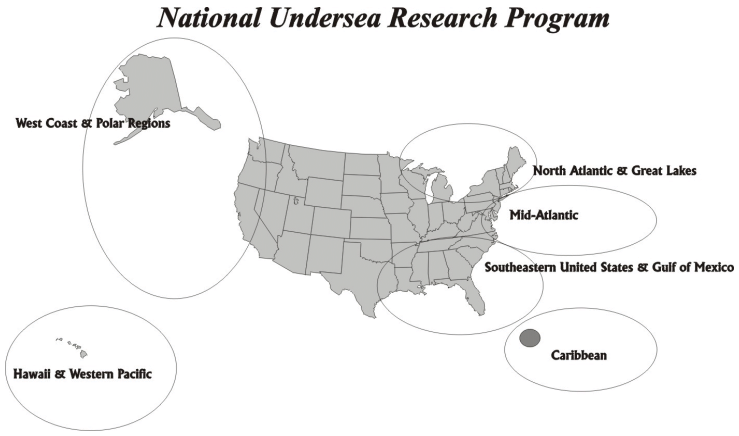
- AssumeAssume leadership of the U.S. Program in ocean exploration to better assess livingAssume leade resources,resources, physical and biogeochemical processes, and how to betterresources, physical and biogeoch for future generations.
- Improve understanding of undersea ecosystems.
- Support exploration and discovery of new resources, including biomedical substances.
- InIn cooperation with NMFS, improve the science basis to mIn cooperation with NMFS, improve the science protected species.
- Develop principal technologies to support exploration and research in the undersea environment.

## Research Partnerships:

NURPNURP partners are the UniversityNURP partners are the University of CNURP partners are the Universit Carolina-Wilmington,Carolina-Wilmington, the Caribbean Marine Research Center, theCarolina-Wilmington, the Ca of Alaska Fairbanks, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the Jason Foundation.

## Budget and Staff:

NURPNURP manages a $13.8 million program with 5 federaNURP manages a $13.8 million program with 5 fe Foundation employees nationwide that support the program.





## For more information, contact:

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